

Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) are a statutory requirement for Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs). Safeguarding adult practice can be improved by identifying what is helping and what is hindering safeguarding work, in order to tackle barriers to good practice and protect adults from harm.

## Adult V

A gentleman in his early 70s with known health issues. Adult V was returned to his flat by SCAS and the property was found to be 'dirty and unkempt'. ASC arranged domiciliary care and meals to be delivered however Adult V cancelled these services. Care workers were asked to resume visits to Adult V. Adult V did not answer the door to allow the carers to enter and this was not escalated. Adult V was found deceased in his flat in 2017.

Themes that emerged from the Safeguarding Adult Review in to Adult V;

- ◆ Ensuring the correct LA is managing safeguarding concerns
- ◆ Checking pre-discharge planning from hospital
- ◆ Communication between hospital and GP
- ◆ Identifying and responding to health concerns
- ◆ Investigation of reasons for non-engagement
- ◆ Capacity and risk assessments
- ◆ Restarting of services, timely reassessment and reviews
- ◆ Escalation of "not in" responses for care and support agencies and Adult Social Care

Agencies Involved; CCG, Buckinghamshire Council Adult Social Care/Safeguarding Adults/Contracts Team, Care Agencies, Community housing, Bucks Fire and Rescue, SCAS, Thames Valley Police, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

## Areas of Good Practice

- ★ Hospital staff provided a comprehensive overview of Adult V's medical needs and ensured that Adult V went home with food etc for the overnight period
- ★ Care home provided a period of high-quality respite care to Adult V, based on a thorough assessment of his needs and wishes and displayed commitment to him
- ★ Fire and Rescue undertook an assessment of Adult V's needs and provided him with a range of fire-retardant cushions and bedding etc
- ★ ASC Team Manager agreed that a care package was reinstated, with a speedier completion of the S9 assessment to support it, because there was probably an urgent need, rather than this being delayed until a worker could be allocated and a review or reassessment undertaken
- ★ One of the care workers developed a positive relationship with Adult V and went beyond the requirements of the care package to support him
- ★ The Adult Social Care Worker displayed considerable commitment and expertise in her work with Adult V

## Recommendations

Seek assurance that protocols are in place with neighbouring SABs to ensure appropriate cross-boundary referrals of safeguarding concerns are operating effectively

Seek assurance that multi-agency hospital discharge procedures are reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose with regard to cases of possible self-neglect

A multi-agency procedure to be developed to manage self-neglect cases to prevent, wherever possible, their further escalation to the point where they cause safeguarding concerns to be raised

A multi-agency protocol to be implemented locally to ensure all self-neglect safeguarding concerns are coordinated via the safeguarding procedures

Seek assurance that a multi-agency system is in place to manage the discharge and follow-up of all patients from hospital who are not registered with a GP

Seek assurance that Buckinghamshire ASC has reviewed and revised its procedures to ensure all Social Care assessments are holistic and outcome-focused

Seek assurance that Buckinghamshire ASC has reviewed and revised its procedures when service users cancel service, particularly in cases of self-neglect

Seek assurance that partner agencies have reviewed their Mental Capacity Act 2005 policies and procedures, and those services they commission, are fit for purpose with regards to Section 2.11 of the Code of Practice

Seek assurance that partner agencies have reviewed their Risk Assessment policies and procedures, and those of the services they commission, are fit for purpose and integrated into parallel procedures

Seek assurance that partner agencies, and the services they commission, have reviewed and revised their policies and procedures when service users/patients either cancel services or Do Not Attend appointments

Seek assurance that appropriate escalation procedures are in place and implemented when service users, particularly those at risk of self-neglect, disengage with services

Who are we and what do we do?

[About the BSAB - Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board \(buckssafeguarding.org.uk\)](https://www.buckssafeguarding.org.uk)

Link to the Adult V report;

[Safeguarding Adult Reviews - Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board \(buckssafeguarding.org.uk\)](https://www.buckssafeguarding.org.uk)